

Message Text

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DEPT PASS NSF AND NOAA FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN TOCY UR US

SUBJECT: PRIVATE COOPERATION PROGRAM TO STUDY INVERTEBRATES IN LAKE
BYKAL

1. DR RALPH BRAUER DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF MARINE BIO-MEDICAL
RESEARCH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, VISITED THE EMBSSY
JULY 13 TO REPORT DEVELOPMENT OF A NON-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATIVE
PROGRAM TO STUDY INVERTEBRATES LIVING AT THE 1000-TO1500- METER
LEVEL IN LAKE BAYKAL-THE WORLD'S DEEPEST BODY OF FRESH WATER.
BRAUER PLANS TO DISCUSS PROGRAM WITH DEPT UPON HIS RETURN TO U.S.
THE EMBASSY HAS OFFERED ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING
COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IF DESIRED.

2. WORKING PRIMARILY THROUGH THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE
LIMNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT LAKE BAYKAL, DR BRAUER PLANS TO BRING
TO USSR SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT TO CAPTURE THE INVERTEBRATES AND
TO BRING THE TO THE SURFACE UNHARMED. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE
PROJECT IS TO STUDY HOW THESE FRESH WATER INVERTEBRATES ADAPT TO
HIGH PRESSURES; FOCUSING ON THEIR ION-TRANSPORT
MECHANISMS. COMPARISONS TO CRETURES LIVING AT EQUIVALENT DEPTHS
IN SALT WATER WILL BE MADE.

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3. DR BRAUER PLANS TO RETURN TO USSR TO CARRY OUT THE STUDY
IN JUNE 1978, WHEN THE TEMPERATURES OF THE LAKE ARE UNIFORM
THROUGHOUT ITS DEPTHS. PROGRAM SHOULD REQUIRE A STAY AT BAYKAL
FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH. SOVIETS HAVE ALSO INVITED DR BRAUER
TO CONDUCT SIMILAR STUDY AT BAYKAL DURING THE WINTER MONTHS,
WHICH HE BELIEVES WOULD BE INTERESTING BUT MIGHT PRESENT

GREATER TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. IN ANY CASE, WINTER PROGRAM WOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN UNTIL AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SUMMER PROJECT.

4. DR BRAUER HAS SOME FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT FROM THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY AND FROM THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION. HE HAS TENTATIVELY RAISED WITH THE SOVIETS THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER ACCOMPANYING THE EXPEDITION NEXT SUMMER. INITIAL SOVIET REACTION TO THIS SUGGESTION WAS NEGATIVE, BUT BRAUER MAY PURSUE IT IN LOW-KEY FASHION.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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